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COUNTRY THREAT FILE CODEBOOK

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University of Southern California

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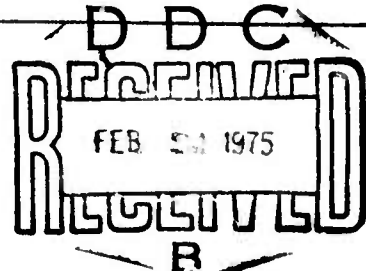AD A005329

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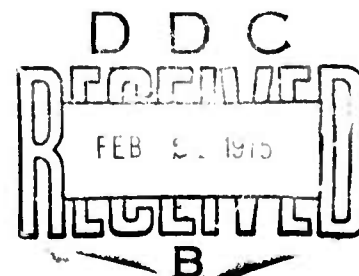S/N 0102-014-6601

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COUNTRY THREAT F'LE CODEBOOK

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January, 1975

TR&A Technical Report #20
Threat Recognition and Analysis Project

COUNTRY THREAT FILE CODEBOOK

INTRODUCTION

The Country Threat File is a concise computerized data file designed to monitor each nation's domestic and international situation. The purpose of monitoring is to provide significant contextual information on a state's recent events and policy focus, major problems and active threats, and ongoing changes that may lead to major policy shifts and other such considerations for the international system. This type of data file is very informative and time-saving for analysts. For at their terminal fingertips are such nation specific data as active and latent threats, national resources and strengths available to withstand or carry out threats and major policy changes, national dependencies that restrict policy actions and make nations economically and politically vulnerable, and the group of nations and organizations that might support and come to the aid of a specific nation.

There are numerous types of data variables in the Country Threat File since there is a wide variety of information necessary to adequately monitor a nation. For example, there is a collection of situational attribute data such as population, gross national product, memberships in international organizations and military alliances, raw material resources, military size and expenditures. Secondly, there is transactional data such as economic and military aid, trade, and raw material flows. Another data type, event-interactions, includes quarterly accounts of domestic and international agreements and treaties, visits, support statements and actions, proposals, protests, demonstrations, warnings, verbal threats, police and military actions. Finally, there is a generalized categorization of threats to and from each nation which allows easy cross-nation comparisons for analysis.

This is the Country Threat File's first data collection effort. It is not intended as a final unchangeable dataset. Rather this first effort is to get initial data onto a retrievable computer file, to analyze the data, and to reformulate and refine the types of data needed for such a file. Therefore after initial analysis, new data items may be added and current items discarded.

DATA CATEGORY DESCRIPTION

The current data categories are:

1. Nation background information which includes:
    a) nation identification: country name, 3 letter WEIS alpha
       code + 3 digit WEIS numeric code for that nation, month
       and year of update.

    b) leadership: the titles and names of the nation's leaders,
       head of state(HST), foreign(FOR) defense(DEF) interior
       (INT) and finance(FIN) ministers. Titles such as President
       (PRS), Premier(PRM), Prime Minister(PM), and military
       rankings such as general(GEN) are included. The main
       source is the periodical CURRENT LEADERS. Changes in
       leadership are noted and clipped from the newspapers.
       These clippings and the latest CURRENT LEADERS provide
       the information for the Quarterly updates.
       France EXAMPLE=HST:PRS Valery Giscard D'Estaing
       FOR: M. Jobert INT: J. Chirac DEF: A. Bord

    c) area, population(POP) and borders(BOR): originally taken
       from INFORMATION PLEASE ALMANAC and the WORLD ALMANAC 1974,
       because of the Almanacs' concise, up-to-date, and easy
       to read organization. For update data, check the 1975
       editions.
       France EXAMPLE=AREA:0,212,918 POP:051,915,000
       BOR:BEL BOR:LUX BOR:GMW BOR:SWZ BOR:ITA BOR:SPN

    d) gross national product(GNP): the latest figures obtainable
       are taken from MILITARY BALANCE 1973-1974.
       France EXAMPLE=GNP:202,000,000,000

    e) gross national product per capita(GNPPC): this standard-
       ization figure is calculated by dividing our latest
       GNP/POP, no dollar sign is necessary. Calculations are
       personally done by way of computer terminals using a
       CPS calculation program.
       France EXAMPLE=GNPPC:3890

    Complete nation background information example:
    France FRN 220 1274
    HST:PRS Valery Giscard D'Estaing;
    FOR:M. Jobert; INT:J. Chirac; DEF:A. Bord;
    AREA:0,212,918; POP:051,915,000;
    GNP:0,202,000,000,000; GNPPC:3890;
    BOR:BEL; BOR:LUX; BOR:GMW; BOR:SWZ; BOR:ITA; BOR:SPN; BOR:AND;

2. Affilliations is a category that attempts to show the
    nation's recent ties in terms of their organizational
    and alliance memberships, military commitments, and
    recent political commitments and agreements. It includes:

a) organizations to which the nation currently belongs.
Include all types of organizations especially security
or military alliances. If the organization contains less
than 7 members, include the 3 letter alpha code of the
members in parentheses after the organization's name.
A list of organizations and member states is in EUROPA
YEARBOOK 1973 vol. 1,(VKC desk ref JN 1 E85).   There
will be a special computer file containing all organ-
izations and member nations so that an analyst may see
the specific nation links of organizational memberships.
SOURCES:WORLD ALMANAC 1974(inhouse), DUPUY'S ALMANAC OF
WORLD MILITARY POWER 1972(VKC desk ref Ua 15 D9 1972).
Peru EXAMPLE=ORG:UNO; ORG:OAS; ORG:LAFTA; ORG:Andean
Common Market(BOL CHL COL ECU VEN);

b) Agreements: formal treaties, formal and informal agreements
of any nature--political, economic, military, scientific
and cultural. Include the nation(s) and/or organizations
in the agreement and a short description of its type.
These are intended to show the nation's current attention
focus, therefore this category will be updated quarterly.
For the first pass, agreements will begin with January 1,
1974 to the obtainable present.
SOURCES:KEESING'S CONTEMPORARY ARCHIVES 1974(inhouse)
use nation index summary listings of agreements, and
TOL WEISCANS for each nation.
France EXAMPLE=AGREENTS:USR petro development, CAO CON GAB
SEN cooperation, NOR compensation, SPN delimitation of
continental shelf and territorial waters;

3. Dependencies is a category that attempts to show the
nation's dependency links and possible vulnerabilities with
other nations in trade, aid, and military affairs. It includes

a) Trade:(1) list the import and export commodities that
make up approximately 2/3's of that nation's total trade.
And for each commodity, list its percentage of total trade
type--import or export. For example, France's number one
import is machinery and transport equipment which accounts
for 25% of France's total imports. And France's number
one export is machinery which accounts for 25% of France's
total exports.   Thus, France's EXAMPLE=+machinery
transport equipment 26, -machinery 25;
(2) list the major trading nations of each nation, major
being 2/3's of the total trade amount. List the nation
by its 3 letter alpha code and its associated percentage.
For example, France's leading supplier is the EEC bloc
which accounts for 50% of France's import origins.   And
France's leading customer is the EEC which accounts for
49% of France's export origins.   Thus the French EXAMPLE=
+EEC 50, -EEC 49;.   It is not necessary to include the
percentage signs in the computer file. And the convention

a) organizations to which the nation currently belongs.
Include all types of organizations especially security
or military alliances. If the organization contains less
than 7 members, include the 3 letter alpha code of the
members in parentheses after the organization's name.
A list of organizations and member states is in EUROPA
YEARBOOK 1973 vol. 1,(VKC desk ref JN 1 E85). There
will be a special computer file containing all organ-
izations and member nations so that an analyst may see
the specific nation links of organizational memberships.
SOURCES:WORLD ALMANAC 1974(inhouse), DUPUY'S ALMANAC OF
WORLD MILITARY POWER 1972(VKC desk ref Ua 15 D9 1972).
Peru EXAMPLE=ORG:UNO; ORG:OAS; ORG:LAFTA; ORG:Andean
Common Market(BOL CHL COL ECU VEN);

b) Agreements: formal treaties, formal and informal agreements
of any nature--political, economic, military, scientific
and cultural. Include the nation(s) and/or organizations
in the agreement and a short description of its type.
These are intended to show the nation's current attention
focus, therefore this category will be updated quarterly.
For the first pass, agreements will begin with January 1,
1974 to the obtainable present.
SOURCES:KEESING'S CONTEMPORARY ARCHIVES 1974(inhouse)
use nation index summary listings of agreements, and
TOL WEISCANS for each nation.
France EXAMPLE=AGREEMTS:USR petro development, CAO CON GAB
SEN cooperation, MOR compensation, SPN delimitation of
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a) Trade:(1) list the import and export commodities that
make up approximately 2/3's of that nation's total trade.
And for each commodity, list its percentage of total trade
type--import or export. For example, France's number one
import is machinery and transport equipment which accounts
for 25% of France's total imports. And France's number
one export is machinery which accounts for 25% of France's
total exports. Thus, France's EXAMPLE=+machinery
transport equipment 26, -machinery 25;
(2) list the major trading nations of each nation, major
being 2/3's of the total trade amount. List the nation
by its 3 letter alpha code and its associated percentage.
For example, France's leading supplier is the EEC bloc
which accounts for 50% of France's import origins. And
France's leading customer is the EEC which accounts for
49% of France's export origins. Thus the French EXAMPLE=
+EEC 50, -EEC 49;. It is not necessary to include the
percentage signs in the computer file. And the convention

has been adopted of using + signs to stand for items that
enter a nation such as imports, and - signs to stand for
items that leave a nation such as exports. This convention
is also used in aid and military dependency categories.
France EXAMPLE=TRADE:+machinery transport equipment 26,
manufactures 21, non-electric machinery 14, EEC 50, USA 8,
UNK 5, -machinery 25, motor vehicles 16, textiles 11, EEC 49
USA 5, SWZ 5;
SOURCES:export commodities, export and import nations were
taken from INFORMATION PLEASE ALMANAC 1974(Doheny ref rm
AY 64 155) since they are listed with their percentages
already calculated. Other sources such as DIRECTION OF
TRADE and EUROPA YEARBOOK 1973 also give this information
but not in percentages, they list the amounts in local
currency and one would have to calculate the percentages
personally. Therefore the Almanac was used but check
calculations were made to ensure validity and reliability
between the sources. Import commodities and percentages
are taken from EUROPA YEARBOOKS vol. 1&2 1973(VKC desk
ref JN 1 E85) and the percentages must be personally cal-
culated. Therefore coders must look at EUROPA trade tables
by nation, determine the top 2/3's import commodities,
write down their name and currency amount along with the
import currency total. These figures are then calculated
into percentages on the computer terminals by way of the
CPS calculation programs.

b) Economic Aid: this category includes official bilateral,
   capital developmental and technical assistance aid, export
   credits, and investments. The current problem is the sparse
   information available. Therefore, until better sources
   can be found, this category will vary greatly in terms
   of detail in nation suppliers and receivers, and amounts.
   Include the 3 letter alpha code for nations involved, the
   type of aid and amount when given. Again the convention
   of + signs for that which comes into a nation, and - signs
   for that which leaves a nation is used. And we use a
   first-letter indicator to label a currency amount, such
   as m=million, t=thousand.
   Peru EXAMPLE=ECONOMIC-AID:+GMW export credits 5m, +NTH
   capital aid 10m, +SWZ development project and investments;
   France EXAMPLE=ECONOMIC-AID:-85% France zone former colonies
   -ALG 13%, -CAO IVO MOR TUN NIR GAB 33%;
   SOURCES:OECD RESOURCES FOR A DEVELOPING WORLD (VKC ref rm
   HG4517 07 1962-1968) now inhouse on code sheets.

c) Military dependencies includes various types of infor-
   mation such as defense pacts, troop training, troops and
   bases, military aid and arm sales.
   (1) For defense pacts, list the name of the pact such as
   NATO or the 3 letter alpha code of the nations involved.
   (2) For troops and bases, we are interest. in whether
   that nation has its own troops and bases on foreign soil,
   and whether there are foreign troops and bases on that

nation's territory.   Therefore use the + and - conventions
to signify whether the nation receives(+) or sends(-)
troops and /or bases, and the 3 letter alpha code for
the nations involved.
(3) For troop training, again use the convention of + for
a nation receiving training by another nation, and - for
a nation sending training to another nation, and of
course the 3 letter alpha code for the nations involved.
(4) For military aid, continue the convention of + signs
for those receiving aid and - signs for those sending
aid, and the 3 letter alpha codes. Include the amount
when given. Thus if it is France's Country Threat File
and France sends military aid to Ivory Coast worth 2
million dollars, the entry would be MILITARY-AID:-IVO2m;
If it is Ivory Coast's Country Threat File, the entry
would be MILITARY-AID:+FRN2m;
SOURCES:the above categories of data are found in the
narrative portions of DUPUY'S WORLD ALMANAC OF MILITARY
POWER 1972 (VKC desk ref Ua 15 D9 1972). DUPUY'S is
organized by nations. Thus those military dependency
items present are scattered throughout the narrative.
The coders must copy the relevant information out of
the narrative onto code sheets. And the detail of the
information will vary for the different nations.
(5) Arm sales information is currently available for
the USA on an inhouse zerox sheet, and for other nations
if listed in KEESING'S CONTEMPORARY ARCHIVES 1974.
Again the important information is whether the arms are
coming into the nation(+ for bought) or out of a nation
(- for sales), the 3 letter nation alpha codes, and
currency amounts or specific armament sold if available.
France EXAMPLE=DEFENSE-PACT:NATO, former colonies;
TROOPS+BASES:-GMW WDE GHA MAG SEN; MILITARY-AID:+USA;
ARM-SALES:+USA15m, -KUW SAU GRC;
Peru EXAMPLE=MILITARY-AID:+USA1.9m; ARM-SALES:+USA5m,
+USR tanks, +3 FRN supersonic jets;

4. Strengths and Resources is a category that attempts to indicate
    the strategic capabilities of a nation particularly when it is
    necessary to withstand or to carry out a threat. It includes:

    a) Resources: raw material and food production if the nation
       is one of the top 10 world producers of a specific resource.
       List the nation's rank in world production, the name of
       the resource, and that nation's percentage of world
       total production. For example, if Peru is the world's
       7th ranked producer of copper and Peru's 1972 yearly
       production of copper amounts to 3% of world's total
       yearly production of copper, the entry would be
       RESOURCES:7 copper 3%, the percentage sign is included
       here to clarify it from the ranking number.
       The above information is based on a chart ranking the
       top 10 nations in numerous raw materials and foods,

which was zeroxed from the INFORMATION PLEASE ALMANAC 1974
and is now inhouse. To get the percentage calculations,
the UN STATISTICAL YEARBOOK 1973 was used to get the
nation and world totals. Percentages were then personally
calculated on computer terminals using the CPS programs.
Thus the 10 nations, their ranks and percentages for
various raw materials and foodstuffs are now on an
inhouse chart. Therefore coders need only consult this
chart.

The second step of resources involves finding out to
which nations the raw materials are exported and in what
amount. For example, to whom does Peru export its copper
and in what amount? This information is located in Seaver
Science Library First Floor ref section 1971 MINERALS
YEARBOOK vol. III, AREA REPORTS:INTERNATIONAL, TN 23 U612
vol:3. The book is organized by nations and contains
tables on export minerals, amounts exported, and customer
nations. The coder must find the specific nation tables,
then the mineral entry and copy the total amount exported,
the customer nations listed and their amounts. The
percentages are then personally calculated on computer
terminals using the CPS programs.

Peru EXAMPLE=RESOURCES:1 fishmeal, 7 copper 3%(JAP 82%,
SPN 7%), 4 silver 13%;

Thus Peru produces 3% of the world's total copper product
and of this 3%, 82% is exported to Japan and 7% is
exported to Spain.

b) Military strength includes indicators of the national
   resources devoted to the military sector. This includes:
   (1) Total armed forces(TAF) which is the total numeric
   listed in MILITARY BALANCE 1973-1974(VKC desk ref UA 15
   L65 1973-1974). This information has already been put
   onto inhouse code sheets.
   (2) Total armed forces as a percentage of pop(TAF%POP)
   which is the personally calculated division of TAF/POP.
   This is used as a standardization measure.
   (3) Military expenditures(ME) is the total USA currency
   equivalents listed in MILITARY BALANCE 1973-1974, and is
   on inhouse code sheets.
   (4) Military expenditures as a percentage of gnp(ME%GNP)
   is personally calculated by dividing ME/GNP. Again this
   is a standarization measure.
   (5) The keyword nuclear will be listed only if that
   nation has nuclear capabilities.
   France EXAMPLE=TAF:0,503,600; TAF%POP:00.97;
   ME:08,448,000,000; ME%GNP:04.20; NUCLEAR

5. Vital Concerns are brief keyword categories of a nation's
    salient threat situation, international and domestic. Vital
    concerns may contain strategic considerations, latent and
    active, and actual military conflict. If you ask the question,
    what kinds of things are the leaders and people of country X

concerned about, what do they worry about, why have they been taking their recent actions and policies, some of the answers will fall under the vital concerns listing. Of course we are interested in the concerns that have significance for other nations. For example, internal hostility between rulers and the populace may eventually bring down the rulers and institute another form of government to which foreign governments would then have to adjust and respond. Other examples include border disputes, 200 mile offshore fishing limits, agricultural failures, food and energy crises, nationalizations of foreign enterprises, deteriorating bilateral relations, guerrilla terrorism, civil disruptions or hostility due to minorities or foreign workers, raw material dependencies, economic competition, trade deficits, disputed territories, control of waterways, coup d'etats, breaking of diplomatic relations, withdrawal from organizations or alliances, war, famines, inflation, droughts, and so forth. We are not interested in specific sequences of events, but what these events are about--the why of the actions.

The priority ratings indicate the range of vital concerns from attention-absorbing and the most threatening, to ones that are latent and of no immediate concern. For this initial pass, the assignment of priority ratings is very subjective and secondary to developing the categories of vital concerns. After initial data entry, a real effort will be made to systemitize priority ratings.

> Peru EXAMPLE=prio1:internal security problems, authoritarian military junta + workers students
> prio2:200 mile offshore territorial claim;
> prio3:agricultural failure, anchovies-- economy base;
> prio4:nationalization USA oil company, refused compensation, USA loan credit cutoff;
> prio5:nationalization USA mining corporation;
> prio5:nationalization international fishmeal company;
> prio7:EQU border dispute, latent;

SOURCES:These concerns are not available in any one source. Coders should list the types of vital concerns mentioned as they go through all the information sources such as KEESING'S, DUPUY'S, TOL WEISCANS, EUROPA YEARBOOK, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE BACKGROUND NOTES, and any personal knowledge. The coder responsible for gathering the nation's data should develop a first list as comprehensive as possible. This list will be given to other coders, research analysts, and study team managers to add and refine the vital concern entries. For this is a group effort in developing initial and amendable categories of vital concerns, and eventually priority ratings.

6. The events category includes the extraordinary, nonregularized events per nation for the last quarter. However, the first data gathering will begin with January 1, 1974 to the obtainable present. The events are in the form who did what to whom about

what. The types of events may be internal or external, tension
producing or tension reducing. For example, the types include
coups, major strikes and protests, border conflicts,
denunciations, protests, walkouts, visits, conferences, and so
forth. Include the nations and/or organizations involved in the
event in terms of their 3 letter alpha codes, the event type
and what the event is about.

    France EXAMPLE=EVENTS:AUL + NEW protest FRN Pacific
                    nuclear test,
              FRN minister symbolic walkout EEC
                  agricultural meeting,
              franc floating,
              3 month suspension foreign workers entry
                  visas;

    SOURCES:KEESING'S CONTEMPORARY ARCHIVES 1974 (inhouse),
refer to nation index, TOL WEISCANS for each nation.

EXAMPLE

Country Threat File: France

```
France   FRN  220   1174
HST:PRS Valery Giscard D'Estaing;
FOR:M. Jobert; INT:J. Chirac; DEF:A. Bord;
AREA:0,212,918; POP:051,915,000; GNP:0,202,000,000,000; GNPPC:3890;
BOR:BEL; BOR:LUX; BOR:GMW; BOR:SWZ; BOR:ITA; BOR:SPN; BOR:AND;

AFF=ORG:NATO; ORG:WEU; ORG:EEC; ORG:UNO; ORG:OECD; ORG:SEATO;
    AGREEMENTS:USR petro development, LBY development, ALG petro
       development, CAO CON GAB SEN cooperation, MOR compensation,
       SPN delimitation of continental shelf+territorial waters;
DEP=TRADE:+machinery transport 26, manufactures 21, non-electric
    machinery 14, EEC 50, USA 8, UNK 5, -machinery 25, motor
    vehicles 16, textiles 11, EEC 49, USA 5, SWZ 5;
    ECONOMIC-AID:-85% France zone former colonies, -ALG 13% -CAO
    IVO MOR TUN NIR GAB 33%;
    DEFENSE-PACTS:NATO,not in military command structure, former
    colonies; TROOPS+BASES:-GMW WBE CHA MAG FRN Somaliland
    Afars+Issas SEN; MILITARY-AID:+USA; ARM-SALES:+USA15m, -KUW
    SAU GRC Abu Dhabi;
S&R=RESOURCES:3 uranium 8%, 6 bauxite 5%(GMW 57%, UNK 28%, ITA 11%)
    7 iron ore (BEL-LUX 73%, GMW 27%);
    MILITARY:TAF:0,503,600;  TAF%POP:00.97;  ME:08,488,000,000;
    ME%GNP:04.20;   NUCLEAR
VITAL CONCERNS=priority1:internal political fragmentation +
                       coalition maintenance;
               priority2:independent nuclear defense capability;
               priority3:nuclear tests Pacific Ocean;
               priority4:superpower dominance global politics;
               priority5:USA dominance European politics + military
                       policies;
               priority6:West Europe economic+political leadership
                       competition GMW;
               priority7:dependence on Arab oil;
               priority8:EEC cooperation + futher integration;
               priority9:UNK role in EEC;
               priority10:relationship with former colonies,
                       exploitation charges;
               priority11:foreign workers;
               priority12:Basque separatist guerrillas;
               priority13:FRN-GMW border;
EVENTS:AUL+NEW protest FRN Pacific nuclear tests,
       FRN EEC minister symbolic walkout EEC agricultural meeting,
       FRN rejects ICJ rulings as binding,
       franc floating,
       3 month suspension foreign workers entry visas;
```

CONCLUSION

As of this writing, the Country Threat File is in the final stages of initial data collection. Thus no real data analysis has been possible. However it is possible to make a number of comments on improvements for future updates. The first problem has been scarcity of overall data for some of the smaller nations, and scarcity of economic aid and military data for most nations. Therefore the inherent search for sources will continue. Secondly, there are systemic threats that cannot be adequately handled in a nation file. Therefore we will investigate the feasibility of covering such topics as food, energy, sea resources, and atmospheric pollution by way of special topic files which focus on global flows and changes. A third problem has been the event recording of nations involved in active military action. For example, there was great duplication of effort and rather one-sided accounts on military actions in Cyprus and the Middle East. Therefore the event sequencing of future military encounters will be put into special separate files dealing with the interaction of all parties in the conflict. A reference statement will be included in a nation's file if it was involved in an international military encounter. For example. a simple reference statement such as "SEE CYPRUS1" could be placed in the country threat files of Cyprus, Greece, Turkey and England to direct the analyst to a complete interaction recount. Finally, another data category containing broad foreign policy statements and explanations is needed. This would provide a motivational and perceptual supplement to the events category. Possible sources include the opening statements of the United Nations General Assembly and State-of-the-Nation type speeches in addition to our usual news sources. We will investigate these proposed changes for the next quarterly update.

The first analysis of the Country Threat File will focus on pinpointing where the active "hot spots" are in the international system. Hot spots include issues involving actual military hostilities, issues that appear to be on the verge of breaking into military hostilities, or issues that are beginning to involve intense non-military pressures such as ecomomic or organizational sanctions. In a way, this first analysis is to test whether the Country Threat File actually detects the active threats in the international system. Then analysis can proceed along many lines; for example, tracing the development of threats and their results, potential threat areas, types of threats common to types of nations, and the types of threats that increasingly and decreasingly appear domestically and internationally.